



TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL

[54986-40535874@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:54986-40535874@requests.muckrock.com)

Ms. Emma Best  
MuckRock News  
Dept MR 54986  
411A Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Re: FOIA Request No. F-00160-18  
Second and Final Response

Dear Ms. Best:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) regrets the delay in responding to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. Unfortunately, USAID is experiencing a backlog of FOIA requests. Please know that USAID management is very committed to providing responses to FOIA requests and remedying the FOIA backlog.

This is the second and final response to your May 29, 2018, FOIA request to the USAID. You requested copies of all emails containing the terms 'MuckRock', 'Muck Rock' or 'MuckRock.com' email address to include email exchange for each email, including emails that are being replied to as well as subsequent replies. On August 29, 2018 (original scope narrowing was June 19, 2018), you narrowed the scope to consider scoping prong two out depending on the number of hits, to limit the scope to the original version of the email from the sender's account to withhold duplicate emails [email communications involving a member of USAID FOIA staff that reference MuckRock and omit all email messages containing news article references to MuckRock, in addition to all FOIA logs emails since this information is publicly available].

For your information, Congress excluded three (3) discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all of our requesters and should not be construed as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

USAID conducted a comprehensive search of the Bureau for Management Office of the Chief Information Officer (M/CIO). Under letter dated March 1, 2019, you received the first interim response. You were also advised that while processing the first interim response, we identified one document totaling six (6) pages containing Department of State's (DoS) equities. That document was referred to DoS for review. Of those pages, we have determined that one (1)

page is releasable in its entirety and five (5) pages are partially releasable pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6). Where DoS's redactions occur, they are noted in the document.

FOIA Exemption 6 exempts from disclosure information about individuals in personnel or medical files and similar files the release of which would cause a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. This requires a balancing of the public's right to disclosure against the individual's right to privacy. The privacy interests of the individuals in the records you have requested outweigh any minimal public interest in disclosure of the information. Any private interest you may have in that information does not factor into the aforementioned balancing test. Within the records, we withheld email addresses and cell phone numbers.

If you require any further assistance or would like to discuss any aspect of your request, you may contact Pamela Arrington-Campbell, the assigned FOIA Specialist by phone on (202) 712-4476 or at [parringtoncampbell@usaid.gov](mailto:parringtoncampbell@usaid.gov). You may also contact USAID's FOIA Public Liaison, Christopher Colbow, at [foia@usaid.gov](mailto:foia@usaid.gov).

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services offered:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Records and Archives Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS  
College Park, Maryland 20740-6001  
E-mail: [oris@nara.gov](mailto:oris@nara.gov)  
Telephone: (202) 741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448  
Fax: (202) 741-5769

You have the right to appeal this second and final response. Your appeal must be received by USAID no later than 90 days from the date of this letter. In order for it to be considered an official appeal, please address and send directly to the FOIA Appeal Officer:

Director, Office of Management Services  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Ronald Reagan Building, Room 2.12-010  
Washington, DC 20523

If you wish to fax your appeal, the fax number is (202) 216-3369. Both the appeal and the envelope should be marked "**FOIA APPEAL**." Please include your tracking number F-00160-18 in your letter.

You have the right to appeal the above exemptions that are clearly marked as DoS's equities. Your appeal must be received by DoS no later than 90 days from the date of this letter.

In order for it to be considered an official appeal, please address and send directly to the FOIA Appeal Officer:

Kellie Robinson, Public Liaison  
U.S. Department of State  
A/GIS/IPS/PP  
SA-2, Suite 8100  
Washington, DC 20522-0208  
Email: [RobinsonKN@state.gov](mailto:RobinsonKN@state.gov)  
Phone: 202 261-8484  
Fax: 202 261-8579

There is no charge for this FOIA request. As this concludes the processing of your request, it will be closed.

Thank you for your interest in USAID and continued patience.

Sincerely,

Christopher Colbow, Chief  
FOIA Public Liaison  
FOIA Officer/Agency Records Officer  
Bureau for Management  
Office of Management Services  
Information and Records Division

Enclosure: Responsive Records (6 pages)